



# Alton, NH

Community Contact	Town of Alton Board of Selectmen PO Box 659 Alton, NH 03809
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E-mail	administrator@alton.nh.gov
Web Site	www.alton.nh.gov
Municipal Office Hours	Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
County	Belknap
Labor Market Area	Wolfeboro NH LMA
Tourism Region	Lakes
Planning Commission	Lakes Region
Regional Development	Belknap County Economic Development Council
Election Districts	
US Congress	District 1
Executive Council	District 1
State Senate	District 4
State Representative	District 31

Incorporated: 1796

**Origin:** Originally called New Durham Gore, the town was settled by a group from Roxbury, Massachusetts. The name Roxbury had already been used, so the town was named for the Alton family. The town's boundary envelopes the five-mile long Alton Bay, the southeastern point of Lake Winnepesaukee, and includes the southern side of Wolfeboro Harbor and all of the largest islands in the southeast end of the lake. Alton's 19.3 square miles of inland water area is the largest of any town in New Hampshire.

**Population, Year of the First Census Taken:** 445 residents in 1790

**Population Trends:** Alton has grown well above the statewide average rate for four of the last five decades. After only a four percent between 1950-1960, decennial growth rates have been above thirty percent, peaking at a 48 percent increase between 1970-1980. Alton's population increased by 3,313 residents, going from 1,189 in 1950 to 4,502 residents in 2000. The 2004 Census estimate for Alton was 4,962 residents, which ranked 66th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

**Population Density, 2004:** 77.6 persons per square mile of land area. Alton contains 63.9 square miles of land area and 19.3 square miles of inland water area.

**Villages and Place Names:** Alton Bay, East Alton, Mount Major, South Alton, West Alton



Belknap County

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**Schools students attend: **Alton operates grades K-8; grades 9-12 are jointly managed with Barnstead.**District: **SAU**

72/JMA

Region: **09**Career Technology Center(s): **Region 9 Vocational Technical Center, Wolfeboro**

Educational Facilities	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	1		1	
Grade Levels	P K 1-8		9-12	
Total Enrollment	578		301	

NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2004:

Total Facilities: **3**Total Capacity: **114**Nearest Community/Technical College: **Laconia**Nearest Colleges or Universities: **University of NH; McIntosh**

LARGEST EMPLOYERS	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Alton School Department	Education	116	
Town of Alton	Municipal services	110	1796
McDonald's	Fast food restaurant	50	1995
Dunkin' Donuts	Donut shop	20	1996
Water Industries	Commercial pumping systems	20	1963
Hillsgrove Machine	Custom machine shop	9	1979
Alton Service Center	Car repairs	4	1996
RF Plante Company	Custom tooling, machinery	3	1982
Christian Conference Center	Recreational/campground	8	1863
Alton Home & Lumber	Hardware & lumber sales	5	

**TRANSPORTATION**

Road Access	Federal Routes	
	State Routes	11, 28
Nearest Interstate, Exit	I-93, Exit 20	
Distance	21 miles	
Railroad		No
Public Transportation		No
Nearest Airport	Laconia	
Runway	5,286 feet	
Lighted? Yes	Yes	
Nearest Commercial Airport	Manchester	
Distance	48 miles	
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH	41 miles	
Portland, Maine	88 miles	
Boston, Mass.	91 miles	
New York City, NY	299 miles	
Montreal, Quebec	255 miles	

**COMMUTING TO WORK**

(Census 2000)

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	80.2%
Carpooled, car/truck/van	14.4%
Public transportation	0.0%
Walked	1.2%
Other means	0.3%
Worked at home	3.9%
Mean Travel Time to Work	31.1 minutes

**Percent of Working Residents:**

Working in community of residence	24%
Commuting to another NH community	68%
Commuting out-of-state	9%

**RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

X	Municipal Parks
X	YMCA/YWCA
	Boys Club/Girls Club
	Golf Courses
	Swimming: Indoor Facility
	Swimming: Outdoor Facility
	Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
X	Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
	Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
	Bowling Facilities
X	Museums
	Cinemas
	Performing Arts Facilities
X	Tourist Attractions
X	Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
X	Youth Sports: Baseball
X	Youth Sports: Soccer
	Youth Sports: Football
X	Youth Sports: Basketball
	Youth Sports: Hockey
X	Campgrounds
X	Fishing/Hunting
X	Boating/Marinas
X	Snowmobile Trails
	Bicycle Trails
X	Cross Country Skiing
X	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area

Nearest Ski Area(s): **Gunstock**Other: **Boat launch; town docks**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Type of Government	Selectmen
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2005	5,018,998
Budget: School Appropriations,	
Zoning Ordinance	1970/04
Master Plan	2002
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	Planning Board

**Boards and Commissions**

Elected: Selectmen; Planning; Library Trustees; Cemetery Trustees; Budget; Supvrs. of Check list; Trustees of Trust Funds; Water

Appointed: Conservation; Zoning; Parks & Recreation

Public Library Gilman

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Police Department	Full & part-time
Fire Department	Full & part-time
Town Fire Insurance Rating	6/9
Emergency Medical Service	Volunteer

**Nearest Hospital(s):**

Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro

Distance: 13 miles Staffed Beds: 49

**UTILITIES**

Electric Supplier	PSNH; NH Electric Coop.; Wolfeboro
	Electric
Natural Gas Supplier	None
Water Supplier	Alton Water Works
Sanitation	Private septic
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	No
Solid Waste Disposal	
Curbside Trash Pickup	Private
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	No
Recycling Program	Mandatory
Telephone Company	Verizon; Union
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes
Cable Television Access	Yes
Public Access Television Station	Yes
High Speed Internet Service: Business	Yes
Residential	unknown

**PROPERTY TAXES**

2004 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	\$16.99
2004 Equalization Ratio	62.1
2004 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	\$10.53
2004 Percent of Property Valuation by Type	
Residential Land and Buildings	94.0%
Commercial Land and Buildings	5.5%
Other Property including Utilities	0.6%

**HOUSING**

2003 Total Housing Units	3,847
2003 Single-Family Units	3,413
Building Permits Issued	100
2003 Multi-Family Units	236
Building Permits Issued	4
2003 Manufactured Housing Units	198

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Total Population	Community	County
2004	4,962	60,858
2000	3,289	49,294
1990	4,528	56,576
1980	2,440	42,884
1970	1,647	32,367

**Census 2000 Demographics****Population by Gender**

Male	2,238	Female	2,264
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**Population by Age Group**

Under age 5	273
Age 5 to 19	887
Age 20 to 34	630
Age 35 to 54	1,472
Age 55 to 64	545
Age 65 and over	695
Median Age	41.4 years

**Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over**

High school graduate or higher	87.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	21.5%

**ANNUAL INCOME, 1999**

(Census 2000)

Per capita income	\$25,940
Median 4-person family income	\$46,467
Median household income	\$43,451

**Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers**

Male	\$37,585
Female	\$29,375

Families below the poverty level	5.4%
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**LABOR FORCE**

1994 2004

Annual Average		
Civilian labor force	1,784	2,663
Employed	1,687	2,574
Unemployed	97	89
Unemployment rate	5.4%	3.3%

**EMPLOYMENT & WAGES**

1994 2004

Goods Producing Industries		
Average Employment	23	71
Average Weekly Wage	\$305	\$625
Service Providing Industries		
Average Employment	437	543
Average Weekly Wage	\$249	\$449
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	460	614
Average Weekly Wage	\$252	\$470

**Government (Federal, State, and Local)**

Average Employment	134	244
Average Weekly Wage	\$439	\$528

**Total, Private Industry plus Government**

Average Employment	594	858
Average Weekly Wage	\$294	\$486

n = indicates that data does not meet disclosure standards